

TOP TEN REASONS COLLEGES ADMIT STUDENTS

Here are the top ten factors college admission counselors consider when admitting a freshman class:

1. **A high school curriculum that challenges the student.** Academically successful students make A's and B's. Take the highest level course work at which you can be successful.
2. **Grades that represent strong effort and an upward trend.** Grades should show an upward trend over the years. However, slightly lower grades in a rigorous program are preferred to all A's in less challenging course work. Also, if transfer or personal circumstances caused grades to drop, you will need to explain that in writing to the college.
3. **Solid scores via standard tests (SAT/ACT).** These scores should be consistent with high school performance.
4. **Passionate involvement in a few activities, demonstrating leadership and initiative.** Depth, not breadth of experience is most important.
5. **Community service showing evidence of being a "contributor."** Activities should demonstrate concern for other people and a global view: service above and beyond what CCS requires. Committing to a cause or choosing service in your major field of interest is beneficial.
6. **Work or out-of-school experiences (including summer activities) that illustrate responsibility, dedication, and development of areas of interest.** Work or other meaningful use of free time can demonstrate maturity. Foreign travel is worth mentioning on applications.
7. **A well-written essay that provides insights into the student's unique personality, values, and goals.** The application essay should be thoughtful and highly personal. It should demonstrate careful and well-constructed writing.
8. **Letters of recommendation from teachers and guidance counselors that give evidence of integrity, special skill, and positive character traits.** Students should request recommendations from teachers who respect their work in an academic discipline. Letters from coaches or supervisors in long-term work or volunteer activities are valuable; however, recommendations from casual acquaintances or family friends, even if they are well known, are rarely given much weight.
9. **Demonstrated interest.** Colleges keep track of who contacts them and when and how often. Admission personnel also note if they have heard primarily from the parent or the student. Colleges do not look favorably at students whose parents handle most communications. Visiting, meeting with college representatives when they visit CCS, sending e-mail to the area

representative and replying to college-initiated communications are all ways to demonstrate interest.

10. **Anything special that makes the student stand out from the rest of the applicants!** Include honors, awards, evidence of unusual talent or experience and anything else that makes the student unique. Overall, colleges are seeking students who will be active, contributing members of the student body.